

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims pending:

- At time of the Action: 1-29, 31-41, 45-51, and 54-56
- After this Response: 1-29, 31-41, 45-51, and 55-56

Currently Amended claims: 1, 14, 25, 35, 41, 50, and 55-56

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: 54

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1. (Currently Amended) A user interface comprising:

a graphical interface that enables a user to select media-playing services, ~~wherein~~ the graphical interface ~~[[is]]~~ integrated into an operating system shell's ~~user interface~~ taskbar and includ~~[[es]]~~ing multiple one or more controls for selection of the media-playing services, ~~wherein~~ the ~~multiple one or more~~ controls ~~[[are]]~~ displayed in the operating system shell's ~~user interface~~, taskbar and ~~wherein the multiple controls~~ include~~[[e]]~~ing at least a play control, a pause control, or a stop control.

2. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface further enables the user to select media-playing services with a single click of a mouse.

3. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface further enables the user to select media-playing services with a single click of a mouse when another application running in another process is in perspective.

4. (Original) The user interface of claim 3, wherein the perspective includes the other application being in focus.

5. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface further enables the user to select media-playing services without altering a perspective of another application running in another process.

6. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the controls include buttons for selection of the media-playing services.

7. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the controls enable selection of the media-playing services including services that stop and pause a first media file being played and start a second media file.

8. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the controls include a control button for selection of the media-playing services including a service that alters a size for a presenting of a visual aspect of a media file.

9. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the controls include a control button for selection of the media-playing services including a service that alters a volume for a playback of an audio aspect of a media file.

10. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:
a visual space for presenting of visual media.

11. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:
a visual space for presenting of visual media;
wherein the graphical interface enables the user to select media-playing services to alter the presenting in the visual space.

12. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:
a visual space for presenting metadata associated with a media file.

13. (Original) The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:
a visual space for presenting metadata associated with a media file,
wherein the graphical interface enables the user to select media-playing services to present metadata associated with the media file.

14. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a media-playing application in computer memory executing in a shell process of an operating system, ~~wherein~~ the media-playing application ~~[[is]]~~ capable of enabling a user to control media through a user interface having ~~multiple~~ one or more controls
5 ~~[[and]]~~ integrated into a taskbar associated with the shell process, the ~~multiple~~ one or more controls comprising at least one of a play control, a pause control, a stop control, a previous track control, a next track control, a volume control, a mute control, a metadata control, a visual space control, a switch play control, or a library control, ~~[[wherein]]~~ the ~~multiple~~ one or more controls ~~[[are]]~~ displayed in the taskbar.

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15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein preferences for displaying the user interface in the taskbar are retained by the media-playing application for future use.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is
15 capable of receiving preferences for how the user interface is displayed and used that are received from the user through another application executing in the shell process.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a player deskband,
wherein the player deskband is capable of receiving preferences relating to the user
20 interface and sending the preferences to the media-playing application.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application
comprises a deskband and a controller, the deskband configured to communicate with the
shell process and the operating system, the controller configured to enable the user to
25 control media through the user interface.

19. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application
comprises a visual space and a user interface, the visual space usable for presenting
visual media, the user interface capable of enabling the user to control the presenting.

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20. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable of creating the user interface to have a minimum visual size on the taskbar.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable of creating the user interface following a skin file containing text, art, and script parameters.

22. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable of presenting visual media.

23. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable of presenting audio media.

24. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable of presenting metadata associated with a media file being presented by the media-playing application.

25. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a controller;

a playback module;

a visual space; and

5 a user interface,

wherein:

the controller is capable of creating the user interface;

the user interface is integrated within an operating-system shell's taskbar
10 ~~user interface~~ and is capable of enabling a user to input preferences for play of a
media file, ~~wherein~~ the user interface include[[es]]ing ~~multiple~~ one or more
controls that are displayed, ~~and wherein the multiple controls in the taskbar~~
include[[e]]ing at least a play control, a pause control, or a stop control; and

the playback module is capable of rendering the media file to enable the
controller to present the media file in the visual space and with the visual space
15 remaining visible over all other windows on a screen in which the user interface
and operating-system shell's ~~user interface~~ taskbar is presented.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising a deskband, wherein the
deskband is capable of aiding the controller in determining parameters for the user
20 interface to conform by communicating with an operating system that governs the
operating-system shell's user interface.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising a deskband, wherein the
deskband is capable of building a file containing parameters for the user interface to
25 conform to an operating-system shell governing the operating-system shell's user
interface.

28. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the visual space is graphically
connected to the user interface.

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29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface includes media-playing services that stop, play, pause, skip forward or backward through, and change to a next or previous track of the media file.

5 **30.** (Canceled)

31. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface is capable of enabling the user to input preferences through dragging and dropping an icon representing a media file onto the visual space or the user interface.

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32. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface and the playback module execute in different processes.

15 **33.** (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface and the playback module execute in one process.

34. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface executes in a first process governing the operating system shell's user interface, the playback module executes in a second process, and the user interface includes a button to select a service
20 that switches presentation of media from the visual space to a second visual space created by an application running in the second process.

35. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
presenting a graphical user interface having ~~multiple~~ one or more controls and
25 integrated into an operating system's taskbar user interface, ~~wherein the multiple one or more~~ controls ~~[[are]]~~ displayed in the taskbar and includ~~[[e]]~~ing at least a play control, a pause control, or a stop control; and

enabling, without the graphical user interface being in perspective, a user to select media-playing services through the ~~multiple~~ one or more controls of the graphical user
30 interface.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the enabling is performed also without the graphical user interface being in focus.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

5 presenting a media file in accord with the selected media-playing services.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

presenting a visual media file in a visual space integrated with the graphical user interface in accord with the selected media-playing services.

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39. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

presenting a visual media file in a visual space without the visual space being in perspective.

15 40. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

presenting a visual media file in a visual space without the visual space being in focus.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions that perform the following when executed by a computer:

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present a media-control user interface having ~~multiple~~ one or more controls in a first process for controlling services associated with playing media, ~~wherein the multiple~~ one or more controls displayed in an operating system's taskbar and includ[[e]]ing at least a play control, a pause control, or a stop control; and

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enable a user that is actively engaged with a non-media-control user interface in a second process to interact with the media-control user interface through selection of one or more of the ~~multiple~~ controls by clicking one time on one of the ~~multiple~~ controls without disengaging from the non-media-control user interface.

30 42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

5 45. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the interaction with the media-control user interface further includes a single keystroke.

46. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
provide media-playing services based on the interaction.

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47. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
present visual media in a visual space if the interaction includes a selection to
present visual media.

15 48. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
present visual media with aid from a playback module executing in the first
process if the interaction includes a selection to present visual media.

20 49. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:
present visual media with aid from a playback module executing in a third process
if the interaction includes a selection to present visual media.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions that perform the following when executed by a computer:

25 create a first user interface with graphically selectable media-control services and
running in a first process, ~~wherein~~ the first user interface ~~[[is]]~~ integrated into an
operating system's taskbar and includ~~[[s]]~~ing at least a play control, a pause control, or a
stop control, the play control, pause control, or stop control displayed in the taskbar; and
enable selection of the media-control services while a second user interface
30 running in a second process remains in perspective.

51. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the media-control services include initiating and ceasing play of a media file.

52. (Canceled)

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53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)

10 **55.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for presenting a user interface having ~~multiple~~ one or more controls in a first process for controlling services associated with playing media, ~~wherein the multiple~~ one or more controls displayed in an operating system's taskbar and includ[[e]]ing at least a play control, a pause control, or a stop control; and

15 means for enabling a user interacting with a second process to interact with the user interface through the ~~multiple~~ one or more controls by clicking one time on one of the ~~multiple~~ controls and without ceasing to interact with the second process.

56. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 55, further comprising:

20 means for playing a media file based on preferences received from the user during the interaction with the user interface, the interaction including selection of two or more of the ~~multiple~~ controls.